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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of our souls, we bring You our burdens and depend on Your strength. Thank You for supplying our needs. When we feel guilt, You supply forgiveness. When we are lonely, You provide companionship. When we are perplexed, You provide guidance. When we feel threatened, You provide protection. When we feel grief, You provide comfort. Thank You for never forgetting us and for loving us throughout life's seasons.

Bless our Senators. Help them to put first things first, ever seeking Your kingdom and righteousness. Strengthen them to stand for something, lest they fall for anything.

We pray it in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we are returning to the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Our two managers opened the debate last night and are ready this morning to continue that debate and consider amendments that may be offered. If Senators have amendments to the bill, they should be contacting Senator STEVENS or Senator INOUE at this time. If we have a full day today and into the evening, there is no reason we can't complete this bill by Thursday night.

It is also my intention to move today to proceed to the death tax, minimum wage, and extenders package. There is an objection to moving forward on that bill, and therefore I will be filing a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to that bill. We will still be able to continue our work on the Defense bill, as the vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed will not likely occur until Friday morning; therefore, there will be votes today as Chairman STEVENS makes progress on the Defense appropriations bill.

I hope we can finish our work this week or this weekend, and if we work together over the next couple of days, we can complete a number of important legislative matters before we leave.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5631, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the subcommittee has been presented with some requests pertaining to the use of treatment to deal with the effects of acute radiation syndrome. We believe we do not have sufficient information available to respond to the request for funding for this concept.

I will send to the desk an amendment that will require the Secretary of Defense to submit along with the President's budget for 2008 a plan to deal with countermeasures for treating members of the Armed Forces against the lethal effects of acute radiation syndrome and identify countermeasures required to protect the members of the Armed Forces in the event of a nuclear or bioterrorist attack. We believe we should not move forward and dedicate funds at this time until we have such a plan.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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